

Newsletter

HALF TERM EDITION | OCTOBER 2019



**St Edmund's
Catholic School**

"I can do all things with the help of God who strengthens me."



Morocco 2019

It was a long journey to get to Morocco, over a year of planning and fundraising in fact, but it was worth it. Ever since the training expedition several months before our departure, it was clear that it would be a great trip. Accompanied by Miss Hooker, Mr Bull and a professional expedition leader, we spent fourteen days in a different continent; not to learn, but to have one of the best experiences of our lives.

The trip was split into two sections, a week on a community project and a week spent hiking... up a mountain. For the first week we briefly enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the Moroccan capital before heading off to a small town of Goulmima, where we worked on establishing bike racks within a school. Not only did we complete construction work, but we got really involved with the community, tasting and cooking the local cuisine, playing sports with the locals and going on a tour of a nomadic camp. A great example of this was when, halfway through working in the heat, we all got involved in a water fight with the local employees.

After the community phase we began hiking. But this wasn't hiking up hills, instead we were hiking up a 4,167m tall mountain. Admittedly it was very hard, but not only did it make it even more gratifying when we all reached the peak, but it also helped bring the group closer together. The view from the top was simply stunning, and the journey up and down taught me loads of practical skills that I don't know where else I would have learned.

This trip was one of the best experiences of my life, and while beforehand I was really worried about what would happen; looking back I am so thankful that I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and did something new. Not only did I have a great experience, but I learnt so many skills and qualities, as well as gained a huge boost to my confidence.

Pip, Head Boy

IMPORTANT DATES

November

Mon 4th: Back to School Week: A
Wed 6th: Apprenticeships Uncovered Year 9

Mon 11th: Armistice Day
Anti-Bullying Week
Tue 12th: Marginal Gains Year 9
Wed 13th: Prom Fayre 7 - 9 pm
Fri 15th: Mock interview Day Year 11

Thu 21st: Year 11 Parents Evening
Fri 29th: Variety Show 7.00 pm

December

Tue 3rd: Reconciliation
Wed 4th: English Residential
Thu 5th: Year 9 Parents Evening

Thu 12th: Year 7/8 Disco 6.30 pm
Fri 13th: Dance Festival
Mon 16th: Carol Concert 6.00 pm
Tue 17th: Christmas Lunch
Fri 20th: Christmas Jumper Day
Last Day of Term



Tel: 02392 823766

Web: www.saintedmunds.org.uk

Caelum Dives IngreDi



HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS

Watching the Great South run last Sunday after Mass, one could but not feel a sense of camaraderie and strive for achievement. So many individuals on the same journey, yet each succeeding in their own way, with their own race experience influencing their life. My congratulations to all those who trained so hard and gave so much towards their achievement. Reflecting on life here at St Edmund's, there are many similarities with such events. All of our children are on their own individual journey through school. They are all unique, have differing God given talents and grow/develop at different speeds. Over their 5 years at St Edmund's each person will have amazing experiences, challenges and the opportunity to grow spiritually. The newsletter shares some of these wonderful insights into life here at St Edmund's. However, that hard work, commitment and perseverance shown by students each day is a joy to be part of.

Families who visited our recent open morning commented on how brilliant our children were and the 'fantastic ethos and learning' they had seen. Once again we can expect the school to be oversubscribed and for there to be a large number of appeals for places.

The recent release by the Department for Education of schools performance continues to highlight how well our young people achieve and the success of the school. We remain the best school in Portsmouth and the surrounding Hampshire area for the third year running. Without doubt, all that hard work and 'training' in school makes a difference. Our faith makes a difference. However, we truly value the support from parents contributing to all areas/aspects of school life. When this breaks down, divisions can develop, which can lead to our young people underachieving. These mixed messages, double standards tend to come to fruition in that final challenging year of GCSE's. This is especially the case where families have selected the school based upon academic outcomes and pay 'lip service' to the 'real soul' of St Edmund's; our spirituality. Our faith is the rock upon which our success is built. Once again thanks to parents, governors, staff and our wider family who support all that we do.

A special thanks to the Friends of St Edmund's who are working hard to organise a Prom Fayre (see notices page). The aim is to continue to raise funds to provide better facilities for our children. So if you run a business who is involved in school proms or individuals who have old prom stuff to sell, I please urge you to get in touch.

Finally, an update on the new building. Our summer works programme completed (new Science labs, 3 classrooms refurbished and normal maintenance). We have a new steel frame up and completed. This additional space/improvement is vital to ensure that the breadth/depth of options the school runs is maintained and that class sizes in core subjects are kept very low. We will update the website to show the development of the new facility for our children.

I wish you all a relaxing half term.

God Bless



Mr S Graham
Headteacher



I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to:

Alba, Alfie, Alfred, Ben, Blake, Boubacar, Buddy, Cecile, Chloe, Cordelia, Elli Mae, Fiona, Harrison, Jolie, Johnathan, Keira, Leigh Anne, Mason, Matin, Nick, Oliver, Sam, Shalom, Sumayyah, Tristan and Wiktoria, a group of Year 11 students who left us this summer.

They all chose to be part of the Pompey in the Community as part of the National Citizen Service. Each of them gave their time over the summer break and contributed 1560 hours of social action and received a combined £29,250 worth of investment of government funding to support their further personal, social and skill development. They have all made a positive difference in our local community. This scheme will be open to our current Year 11 students.

More information will be given nearer the time by Mrs Feliks-Matthews.

TRINITY SUITE

New this year is our Trinity Suite where we offer 'first aid' for mental health and emotional well-being. This is a space where the students can go if they are feeling stressed, overwhelmed or anxious, if they need a quiet place or someone to talk to. Every lunchtime there are clubs that students can attend from colouring and board games, Yoga, Meditation, Music, Mindfulness and Life with Lola (meet the dog) which has proved to be one of the most popular.

'I loved seeing the dogs and found it very therapeutic as well as a great way to engage with other children.' Lydia.



CHAPLAINCY

Our new Spiritual theme for the next two years is **'POP'** which means **'Power of Prayer.'**

Where we create a **'SPACE'** for prayer to take place.

The Theme for this year is **'POP'**, **'Creating a Space for Prayer to take place.'** We all need time in order to reflect upon life; time to relax, rest and regenerate. We all need time in our everyday lives to appreciate our environment, family and friends, and to feel a sense of gratitude.

We also need time to invite and recognise God in the ordinary events of each day and to pray for the needs of our world and our own needs. Time to reflect, to grow in awareness of self and in relationship with others and with God, needs time and a space in our daily lives.

This year our theme is to do just that, to create a **SPACE FOR PRAYER**. Prayer takes many forms and this year we will be exploring that space in order to grow in awareness and belief in self and awareness of others. If **you look closely at the 'POP' poster you will see what the plan is for our spirituality over the next two years.**

This term we have started to live out 'POP' in many ways. My assemblies explained what 'POP' is all about and how the idea originated. It is wonderful how staff embraced the theme. Some of the staff created a song and made a video. The students found the song and dance highly entertaining. Our Year 7 Retreat Days were an ideal time to create a space for prayer to take place. All the staff and students really enjoyed the activities, quiz, picnic, meditation and Mass. Year 7 Tutor Groups have also started their Tutor masses which they prepare for and have at lunchtime. All the students enter so enthusiastically into the preparation and their masses are always very prayerful. Our St Vincent De Paul began really well they had a mini retreat where they had time to get to know many new members, share lunch, pray together and prepare for the various spiritual activities in which the school will be involved. Our Education Sunday **Mass at St John's Cathedral enabled our students to actively take part in the various ministries within the Mass and to pray with the local community.** So, watch this **'SPACE'** to see all that will be taking place during the year of **'POP'**. Many blessings,

Fiona, Chaplain



A prayer for the new school year

God, when we open our eyes, may You be there;
When we open our ears, may You be there;
When we open our mouths, may You be there;
When we open our diaries, may You be there.
Help us to see with Your eyes;
Help us to hear with Your ears;
Help us to speak Your truth in love;
Help us make time for You...for others...for ourselves.
Amen

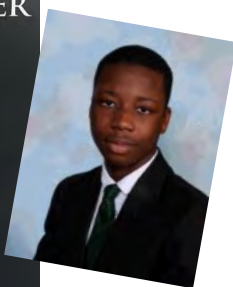


Thank you to everyone who brought in tins, packets and jars for our Harvest collection. As you can see from the photograph everyone was so generous. We delivered the food safely to St Simon's on Monday 21st October.

Where are they now?



Jeffery was a student at St Edmund's who left in 2016 and is now Head Altar Server at the Cathedral.



In Year 11 Jeffery achieved a Mathematics A, Religious Education B, Additional Science B, French C, English Language & Literature C, French C and Statistics C. He is now studying Philosophy, Religion and Ethics at the University of Winchester.

Sam was a student at St Edmund's who left in 2017 and was a former Head Boy.



In Year 11 Sam achieved English Language & Literature A*, Mathematics A*, Statistics A* Drama A*, Physical Education A*, French A*, Geography A*, Religious Education A*, Biology A*, Chemistry A*, Astronomy A and Physics A*. After leaving Havant College with top A level results, he is now studying PPE (Politics, Philosophy, Economics) at Warwick University.



Jess was a student at St Edmund's who left in 2017 and was a former Deputy Head Girl.



In Year 11 Jess achieved English Language A, English Literature A*, Performing Arts - Dance Distinction*2 (A* equivalent), Mathematics A, Physical Education A, Geography A*, French A, Religious Education A*, Biology A*, chemistry A* and Physics A*. After leaving college with Top A Level results she is now studying Veterinary Medicine and surgery at Nottingham University.

Year 11 Geography - Urban Fieldwork

On the 25th of September, year 11 geography students set out to The Hard, Guildhall Square and Commercial Road with the hopes of completing pedestrian counts, surveys and land maps at each site. We spend the day collecting primary data **trying to prove our hypothesis 'land use in Portsmouth is changing because of an increase in university students'.**

We had the opportunity to explore our local area and consider how it has changed in recent years. Upon coming back to school, we analysed our data, looking at the answers to the 80+ surveys that were completed by members of the general public. It was a very interesting day, giving us all an insight into how our area is changing and the visual differences in Portsmouth. The whole class enjoyed the day out and broadened our knowledge on our urban area.



Year 7 were offered the opportunity to take part in a History trip to Portchester Castle to enhance their knowledge of how England changed after the Norman Invasion which are the modules they have studied this half term.

I was lucky enough to join them and again was extremely proud of how they represented the school; asking considered questions and enthusiastically getting involved in some fancy dress and role play. Miss Holt

Portchester Castle

Year 7 History Trip

'I loved the trip! Even though I have been there many times before I have never really explored the Castle. It was great fun to dress up, I was a guard for the King and Queen. I wouldn't like standing to attention in the cold as every time the cold air hit me it made my face tingle. It was so interesting finding out about what happened to the Kings and Queens.' Charlie

'Portchester Castle was so much fun to visit. We learnt a lot of new things whilst also having a lot of fun. The dressing up was great, some of us were peasants, guards, kings, queens and flagbearers.' Natalia

'It was great to learn how the castle changed from a wooden building to a stone castle over the years and to find out how many of the royal family stayed there.' Erin



'Portchester Castle was a great experience. It was so much fun dressing up as peasants, guards, kings and Queens, plus so many activities and games to really help us learn about the history.' Caleb & Rhys



What's on in English!



On the 1st of October, our English lesson was rather different as we spent the lesson outside. It was a sensory writing lesson based upon trees and writing about the 5 senses: sight, smell, sound taste and touch.

During our time in our outside lesson we used adjectives to describe the five senses. For sight we used mountainous, imposing, cracked, ancient and curvy. For smell we used sweet, fresh and sappy. For our third sense, taste, we used crisp, natural and dry (we didn't really eat the trees!). As for touch we used hard and bumpy, this bit was exciting as we were encouraged to hug the trees which everyone found quite funny. For sound we listened to the leaves gently rustling in the cool breeze; it sounded calming and relaxing.

It was an enjoyable lesson because the whole class embraced the surroundings, making it easier to write about the trees.

Eva and Ava

As I walked into school, the colossal shadow of the tree towered above me. I could see its ancient bark glazed with moss, coating the tree from the bitter wind. The fresh, cloying smell diluted the playground. A musky, cinnamon scent hit me as it travelled around the school. As I opened my mouth I was exposed to a sweet (yet antique) taste which tingled my tongue. A flavour some, fresh, tangy scent danced around me as I walked towards the tree. I approached the tree and ran my fingers down the soft, slimy moss. I cracked a piece of hard, icy bark; it crumbled in my palm. As I walked away, the rustles of the leaves gently caressed my ears.

Jack and Nelly

Much Ado About Nothing

In our 10T1 class, we are currently looking at *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare, as it is a part of our GCSE Literature exam.

We recently re-enacted the wedding scene, where Hero is falsely accused of cheating at her own wedding. To do this, we used the original lines from the play, and carefully changed the room so it became more suitable to act in. Members of the class watching wrote down quotations on wedding invitations about the good and bad comments made towards Hero, which helped us prepare for an upcoming essay. Some of these quotes included: 'Give not this rotten orange to your friend,' 'an approved wanton' and 'to link my friend to a common stale.'

Visualising and performing the scene helped everyone in the class to understand it fully, as well as providing us with key context. Overall, I found it a very helpful exercise and it gave me a new way of viewing the scene.

Joe

English Instagram: @st_eds_english

If we are honest, when our English teacher told us about the Instagram account, we didn't want to know, I mean who wants to hear their teacher talking about "THE GRAM" we like to refer to Jane Eyre.

"Gentle reader, may you never feel what I then felt! May your eyes never shed such stormy, scalding, heart-wrung tears as poured from mine. May you never appeal to Heaven in prayers so hopeless and so abused as in that hour left my lips: for never may you, like me, dread to be the instrument of evil to what you

But our curiosity got the better of us and after nagging upon nagging we requested to follow. It has now been about a month and a half since we joined the account and it wasn't what we expected at all we would even go to say it's fun and interesting (I KNOW!!). After starting all the stress of Year 10 and being told about the importance of our exams it really helps the teachers are super supportive. We have fun and go through quotes gaining an insight into what they mean. We've gained loads of commendations and it really helps you when you continue lessons in classes. Its open to all year groups and classes. Go on, give it a go! We hope you join us.

Melanie & Poppy



Year 7 Miss Holt



Well there we have it – our first half term at St Edmunds and what a fantastic start Year 7 have made. Their approach to secondary school has been tenacious and full of enthusiasm! The transition to secondary education can be for some, a very tricky time but what has been so lovely to see, is students across the school going above and beyond to offer support and guidance to those who have needed it. The values and ethos of the school are so secure and it really has helped the students and myself feel welcomed and a part of the St Edmunds family. The students and I have begun our Journey together and we would of course not be able to achieve our goals without the support of you – the parents/guardians. Thank you! We will be getting to know each other over the next 5 years and I encourage you to contact me and seek my support whenever needed to ensure that together we achieve the best for our children.

In our first 8 weeks we have already experienced so much and bonded as a family. My personal highlight so far was our Year 7 Retreat to St John's Cathedral. I was so proud of how the students engaged with all of the activities and how they behaved impeccably throughout. Our Year 7 Chaplaincy reps alongside Chaplain Fiona and other representatives from Year 7 planned and delivered a fabulous Mass for us and at the end each student received their first spiritual badge which they all wear so proudly on their blazers.

The retreat was a fantastic way of introducing the Year 7s to the spiritual life of St Edmund's and a great way for them to earn their first spiritual badge. We continue on that journey by now taking part in Tutor Masses in school, developing our tutor prayers, fundraising for our tutor Icons and embracing 'POP' the Power of Prayer.

Every day at school really does count and I hope that together we can encourage our children to build resilience. If they are feeling a little unwell in the morning, we encourage them to come in and we will monitor them, rest assured, if we then deem them at any point too unwell for school we won't hesitate in contacting you.

Another thing I have felt immensely proud of in Year 7 is students approach to Homework. This has been a shock to the system for some and has been something they have had to get to grips with quickly. It encourages their independence and will in turn have a positive effect on our children as they continue learning beyond the classroom. It gives me great pride in seeing some of the fantastic pieces of work being produced and the presentation (our whole school focus for this term) at such a high standard. I encourage Year 7s to utilise the LLRC and a reminder that there is homework club in there every Wednesday 3-4pm.

Finally, I would like to express how much I have enjoyed getting to know my Year 7 children during this first half term. The phrase "they are a great bunch" has been used many a time by staff in reference to them and is a sentiment I share. I am excited to be on this journey alongside them and feel grateful to be a part of the St Edmund's Family.



'My favourite part of the retreat was the meditation with Chaplain Fiona and the Transformation game with Mr Maguire because it was really fun getting to know other people and talking to somebody new.'

Konstancja



'I enjoyed having the time to read all of the signs and information in the cathedral, I learnt new things and enjoyed singing and joining in with prayer in the Mass.'

Christian



'At the retreat I enjoyed the songs and joining in the Mass celebration. I learnt more about the Cathedral and the Catholic faith. I really enjoyed it.'

Eleanor



'I really enjoyed the team building games because it helped me get to know new people. I also got to know my tutor and other teachers better. I was happy to receive my first badge too.'

Lucy

Year 8 Mrs Brand



We have had a positive start to Year 8, our children have come back with increased maturity and ready to learn. The pupils are now setting good examples and acting as role models for our new Year 7 students. I have been extremely proud to see how helpful and supportive they have been to our new children during their transition process.

Recently some of our Year 8 pupils have been helping with school tours during our Open Evening and our Open Morning. They have represented the school exceptionally well, I would like to say a big thank you to all involved.

Year 8 have a lot of exciting things to look forward to this year, one of which is the Restart a Heart Day on Tuesday 22nd October. This will give all year 8 pupils the opportunity to learn a very valuable skill.

Also, this year the pupils get the opportunity to gain their Community Badge, which is where they sign off different activities they have completed in and outside of school. These include: fundraising, community involvement, clubs and hobbies. As part of the Community Badge this year, we are holding a new event: Year 8 Clubs Fayre. This is where the children can promote the in-school clubs as well as showcase the clubs and activities they attend outside of school. It will be a great opportunity for our pupils to showcase their talents and to encourage others to join a club.

Attendance this year has had a positive start, the year group is currently at 97%. Our top 3 tutor groups are:

3rd – 8 Devereux 98.09% 2nd – 8 John Paul 98.20%
1st – 98.39%

This term our focus is on presentation, so we will be looking at the children's presentation in class. So far I have seen some lovely examples of work by our Year 8 pupils. Homework will be a focus for me this term, I would love the children to come and show me their homework, as I know the effort that goes into producing it.

I would also like to add that being kind to one another is so important and as we go through the school, with our Year 8 family, I will be helping and encouraging this to be our year group focus.

Kindness

Kindness is friendly warmth.

Kindness is always generous and considerate.

Kindness is affectionate concern. It is helpful thoughtfulness.

Kindness is unselfish.

It is compassionate, holds sympathy and charitable understanding close.

Kindness is big hearted-ness.

Kindness does random loving acts.

It's always helping others.

Kindness cultivates caring.

It is devoted loyalty, and the tender mercies of God.

Kindness is love in motion.





Well it has already been a busy start to the new academic year for Year 9 pupils! They have returned after the summer and have been briefed on the importance of Year 9 – a big step up from year 7 and 8, we are now the most grown up and mature pupils in Key Stage 3, setting examples for the younger pupils and starting to think about the dreaded GCSE Option Subjects!

As a school we will be supporting the pupils massively throughout this process, already looking into pathways that the children may want to take post GCSE's, working backwards to identify what option subjects may be useful to take next year. After half term the pupils will also be visiting a variety of different subjects to find out exactly what will be involved inf they take their subject next year. It is a big decision for the children to make, and it is ok if they don't yet know what subjects they want to take for GCSE, and it is very normal to not know what career path they want to take yet. But it is crucial that they have all the information and support at their fingertips to make the process as smooth as possible, and their decisions as informed as possible. More information will be coming home to you as parents in the new year in preparation for our Options Assembly and Options Market on Thursday 23rd January.

There has been some fantastic effort from a huge number of Year 9s, and I particularly want to mention the pupils that have supported Mr Graham and our school on tours completed recently. A number of pupils have showed round prospective parents and pupils and came across exceptionally well when talking about all aspects of our school including lessons, Chaplaincy, rewards, trips, clubs, behaviour. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and well done to the below pupils:

Jenevieve, Alessia, Jasmine-Faye, Zaara, Rella, David Ethan, Mathilda, Sam, Rose, Darcy, Emmanuel, Naomi, Stella, Jennifer, Elina, Anna, Eric, Euan, Jack, Grace, Cassandra, Darren, Albie and Alex.



We have recently launched an inter tutor mystickers merit competition with the year group, to see who will be the next tutor group to win the cinema afternoon. As you can see, Devereux enjoyed theirs last year!

The challenge and rules are simple:

Simply collect as many merits as you can in and out of lessons ... Get your tutor stickers for every 5 merits ... Log these online ...

The tutor group that logs the most amount of stickers between Wednesday 23rd October – Friday 20th December wins a cinema afternoon to a film of their choice paid for by the school! Winners to be revealed in our January Celebration Assembly ... who will be our winners this time around?!



Year 10 Miss Hammond



Well what can I say... this Half Term has without a doubt been my favourite here at St Edmund's!

Year 10 have come back settled and eager to start their GCSE courses. With so many new courses and option choices a part of me did worry that perhaps students would struggle to adapt but these worries have been firmly put to bed. Students have wowed me with the work they have produced. Some amazing art work, endless photography skills and the fantastic essays produced in English. The year group truly have come back with a determination I have not seen in them before and it has made me very proud to be their new Head of Learning.

The Year group look fabulous in their black uniform this term and they all made sure they looked their best for their school photographs. I know many of the boys were concerned that their hair was not quite right but I think they were happy with the end result. I am hopeful that many of the photos will take pride of place on the walls at home and they will look back at them in years to come with very fond memories.

There have been many successes already this term. Every week students have the ability to be nominated by their Tutors and Teachers for showing Politeness, Positivity or Progress in lessons. I have struggled to fit the names onto my PowerPoint slides each week. Already almost half the year group have been nominated by someone. It is something to be very proud of and is something the students should use to encourage them in their subjects. A special mention to Lydia, William, Rosie, Vinnie, Laida, Ruby, Lila, James, Daniel, Tate, Sammy, Maciej and Alexander for winning the Triple P award this term. The Year 10s have also shown a real enthusiasm for collecting commendations which is our new rewards system in KS4 with Hekim becoming the first student in the year group to achieve his Bronze award.

I would like to also say a big thankyou to all the parents and families who attended the Year 10 Information Evening. It was brilliant to see so many people there and the students all seem to be more prepared and have a greater understanding of what is to come over the next two years as I also hope you as families do.

The Year group I am sure will show the same maturity they showed when they revised for their SATs and saw that the hard work they put in really does pay off.

I hope everyone has a restful half term, as despite it being my favourite half term at school it has without doubt been my busiest. Getting to know the students even more has been an honour and

I look forward to seeing them mature into adults over the next two years.



Congratulations to Katy who recently achieved her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.





CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? Our final year, and what a busy start it has been! The summer is over, autumn is well and truly on its way **and..... there is no time to slow down.**

Well done to all Year 11 for a very positive start. The whole year group have been taking on the responsibilities of being the top tier of the school, and growing into mature young adults, as well as setting good examples to the younger peers.

We have been incredibly busy with our events this half term including a fantastic Post 16 Evening, that gave pupils the opportunity to meet representatives from numerous colleges, universities and apprenticeships, as well as ask questions about **their next chapter after St Edmund's**. A special thank you to all parents and guardians who also attended this event, as we had absolutely fantastic attendance on the night. I would also like to express my thanks to Mrs Halford and Mr Wilkinson for all their work organising such a useful and enjoyable evening.

The same goes for our Year 11 Information Evening. Another busy night, which provided some vital information for pupils, and parents on expectations, and how to support each pupil through their academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/carers that compulsory catch up classes will start following half term 3pm until 4pm. These are integral to the success we have year on year with our GCSE results, and provide unique, further opportunities to learn, or improve within each subject area.

Next half term we can look forward to even more events. Our Mock Interview Day on Friday 15th November and Parents Evening on Thursday 21st November. We also have our first taste of practical exams with Sports Leaders as well as our Year 11 Mock exams that start in December. Effective planning will be needed for all pupils.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all prefects and Year 11 students who helped out during our hugely successful Open Evening in September and Education Sunday in October! Many staff and visitors commented on how mature and helpful they had been throughout the evening - well done to all involved!

We have already started planning our Year 11 main events: Year 11 Retreat, Leavers Tea, Leavers Assembly, Leavers Mass and last, but not least, The Leaver's Ball. I am very happy to confirm that we have secured a booking with Queen's Hotel, and that the Prom Committee and I went to visit the venue back in September. I am as excited as everyone! I would like to reiterate, that in order to secure a ticket to all of the above events, you need to fulfil the school's criteria/expectations. You were made aware of these at the beginning of the year.

Overall Year 11 have made a brilliant start to what is our most important, and is sure to be, our busiest year! We look forward to supporting you as you work hard during the build up to the final deadlines and exams. Congratulations on a strong start to your final, GCSE year in St Edmunds! Have a restful half term Year 11, make sure you still find time to revise!

Photography

Year 11 photographers have been working extremely hard this half term. They started with a photo shoot copying the work of Erwin Olaf, Delphine Diallo and Hid Saib by using face and glow paints.

Our best lessons by far for Year 11 photography students was on shutter speeds and learning about how to use the speeds to create different effects .

The group firstly experimented with the balloon pop, capturing some great stills of the water exploding out when it popped. The students got very wet, but they all agreed it was worth it for the shots. The group also experimented with dropping a strawberry into a glass filled with water to capture the 'splash'.

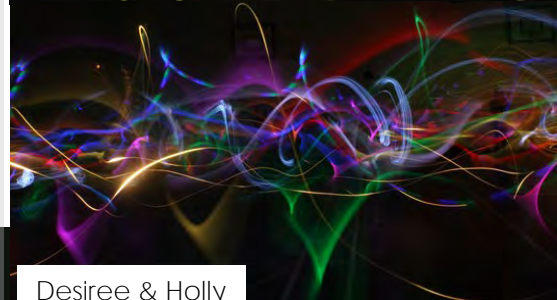
Using the Sports Hall as our darkroom and an array of light sabres, glow sticks and torches the students created light trails and drawings, capturing some colourful , creative and beautiful photographs. The students really blew me away with their creativity and their brilliant photography skills.

Mrs James

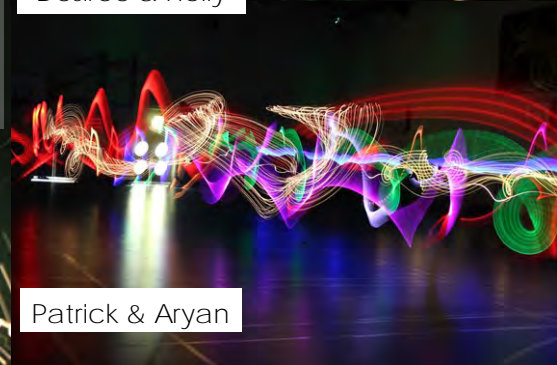
Kyla & Sophie



Desiree & Holly



Patrick & Aryan



Summer & Abigail



Daisy



Ross

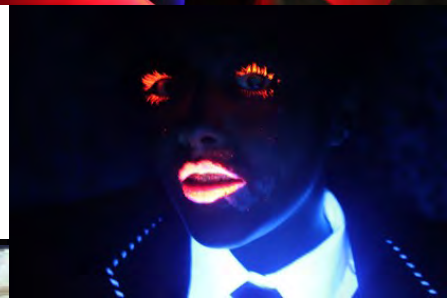


Sophie



Face painters -

Summer, Abigail,
Danielle, Alfie, Bradley,
Sophie, Chloe & Ava.



Achievement, Homework, Excellence

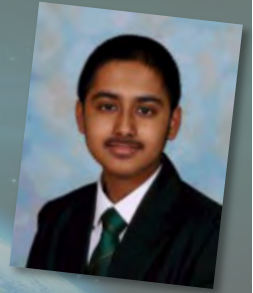
Do the Pyramids align with Orion's Belt? How did tall ships calculate their latitude? What is the future of the universe?

Recently we were contacted by the GCSE Astronomy team at Pearson Qualifications informing us that one of our students (Year 11 Leaver summer 2019) was placed in the top 12 highest performing candidates for GCSE Astronomy 1AS0 in 2019.

Mr Fairey said, 'this is a remarkable achievement especially as he had to answer some really tough questions.'

The Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) award certificates to the 12 top performing students in the country and this year they can also enter for an individual poster competition for cash prizes and the chance to present their poster at a Royal Astronomical Society open meeting in Burlington House.

Well done Syed!



How can we show there is liquid water on Enceladus & Europa? What stops a neutron star collapsing?



As always, students at St Edmund's produce excellent homework. Here is an example of some Art, Day of the Dead and Geography Homework this half term. Well done!

On Tuesday 8th October a fresh cohort of 20 Year 9 boys embarked on a new programme of Marginal Gains.

They were given an introduction to the Marginal Gains theory and then participated in some exercises where they needed to apply a **'marginal gain' in order to improve their performance.**

All of the pupils behaved impeccably and were completely engaged throughout the 2 hour session. They are looking forward to the next two workshops and to making small, manageable changes for a much bigger overall improvement!

Mrs Halford

Marginal Gains





Sports Corner

Year 11 Cup Quarter Final Win 2 - 0 VS Admiral Lord Nelson

After a defeat against ALNS last season the team were slightly pessimistic for the game, but how they were all proven wrong.

The performance was a solid one with the shape being the key factor in the victory. The organisation of the team and the overall desire to win the ball back made this result a sweet one. Goals from Sam and Oakley sealed the deal with a special mention to Matthew who defended like a trooper on the battlefield.

This victory now secures the teams progression to the next round of the cup. Hopefully their excellent attitude and team spirit **continues in their final year of football at St Edmund's. Well done** to all who represented the school.

U16s Girls Table Tennis

Recently we represented our school at the U16s Girls Table Tennis tournament that took place at Admiral Lord Nelson School. All of our hard work and determination paid off as we won all of our games and will now go on to represent Portsmouth schools in the County Finals. Maureen



Recently we have hosted Year 7 inter tutor every Thursday and Friday lunchtimes.

The events have consisted of dodgeball and football, with each tutor competing in a number of games to be crowned the champions of the year group. Overall the teams played amazingly with 100% effort and excitement brought to every game. We were generally impressed with the commitment all tutor participants brought each week. The overall winners of the dodgeball and football were 7 ROMERO so please congratulate them.

Now we begin the countdown for the Year 8 inter tutor which will start the first Thursday and Friday after half term. Trainers will be expected by all team members however, PE kits are not required. Sign up sheets will be given to every tutor next week. This is compulsory for all tutors so please make sure you attend.

Georgina & Ollie, Sports Captains



NOTICES

Parking on the School Site

Please note that the school can no longer accommodate any car parking for visitors entering the school site. Alternative car parking can be found at: Railway View (free).

Claxton Street (free).

Cottage View (free).

Highfield Road (free).

Milford Road (free).

Asda Portsmouth (3 hours free parking).

In the school vicinity (pay and display).

We are trying to encourage our staff and visitors to utilise public transport or cycling/walking where possible. Over the summer the school has invested in new bike sheds which we welcome any visitor to utilise when visiting our school. Thank you for your understanding.



Safety First!
Always Wear a Helmet
when riding your bike,
even on the shortest of
journeys!



A major study of bike helmet use around the world from more than 64,000 cyclists has found helmets reduce the risks of a serious head injury by nearly 70% and cyclists who wear helmets reduce their chance of a fatal head injury by 65%.

Year 10 English Literature Mock Exam
6th January 2020

Friends Of St Edmund's Present...
St. Edmund's Catholic School Portsmouth



catwalk stalls CARS shoes
beauticians florists suits

Prom Fayre

new and pre loved dresses



NO NEED TO PREBOOK - PAY ON THE DOOR!

Entrance = £1

WEDNESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2019

Open To All!
7pm - 9pm

Arundel Street, Portsmouth, PO1 1RX
www.saintedmunds.org.uk ☎ 02392 823766

Friends Of St Edmund's Present...
St. Edmund's Catholic School Portsmouth



Prom Fayre

Wednesday, 13th November 2019, 7pm-9pm
£1 ENTRY

**DO YOU WANT TO SELL
YOUR PROM OUTFIT?**

This includes DRESSES, SUITS, SHOES ETC.



PROM DATE 2020 - 25th JUNE

If you are interested, then please email

friendsofstedmunds@saintedmunds.org.uk

by 4/11/19 and they will send you a form to fill out.

Music Lessons

A reminder that the £90 payment for music lessons for the Spring Term is due by Friday 6th December.

If a student is not continuing with lessons, please inform Mrs Stevenson by this date in writing.

If a student wishes to learn an instrument, there are some spaces for next term, please see Mrs Stevenson.



COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Please do not forget to encourage your children to complete their College Applications to meet the December deadline.

To stay up to date with all the News and Up-coming events follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We regularly post news, updates, photos, achievements and information which we are sure you will find useful and interesting.
www.saintedmunds.org.uk



Saintedmunds Portsmouth



@StEdsPortsmouth

Please note: any link/advert contained in this Newsletter does not imply a recommendation.
St Edmund's Catholic School accepts no liability for any linked sites.



LovetoLearn

PROFESSIONAL TUITION CENTRE

See what our cutomers say:

"The sessions he received were extremely effective and he progressed well in a short space of time, and managed to pass his Maths GCSE!" - *Mrs Ashton (parent)*

"I Love to Learn were excellent, they managed to help him in the run up to the exams and increased his confidence and helped him in all his studies. Thanks." *Rebecca (parent)*

**ENROL YOUR CHILD AND WATCH THEIR CONFIDENCE
AND SELF-ESTEEM GROW.**

- Maths ■ English ■ Reading ■ Spelling
- Comprehension ■ Exam Preparation



**MATHS AND ENGLISH TUTORING
FOR STUDENTS AGED 6-16**

Call now for a FREE assessment on 023 93 968626
www.ilovetolearn.co.uk